

# Europe's New Master Spy



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Reinhard Gehlen looks harmless,

but he makes Russia tremble.

He's off on a new, gigantic intrigue

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BERLIN

In the world of international affairs, nothing is so dangerous as relaxation. That is why Western statesmen who have welcomed the "Geneva spirit" are remaining very much on the alert.

And even though the Iron Curtain has opened a crack, it still conceals a vast amount of information of crucial importance to Western security. For this reason, the value of a certain 52-year-old

German who looks like a successful banker remains undiminished, and has perhaps even increased in the last few months. This man is Reinhard Gehlen, who for the past 10 years has been running a highly effective spy system for the United States and its allies. Today he provides the West with its key European listening post.

The West didn't always take Gehlen too seriously. Back in 1950 he warned against the appointment of Dr. Otto John as head of the West German investigating office against subversive activities. Gehlen suspected John of being himself a member of the Communist underground, but his warning was not heeded. Four years later John defected across the Berlin border to the Soviets. In his first public statement behind the curtain he attacked Gehlen as America's most dangerous spy.

After the restoration of West German sovereignty, Gehlen's organization was returned by its U.S. sponsors to the German government. In a secret night session, Chancellor Adenauer urged his cabinet members to entrust the organization to his own personal responsibility. Though the decision was kept a secret, this reporter has learned that the cabinet agreed. Gehlen has, therefore, only one boss — the head of his government.

The large organization which

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Gehlen founded and runs, deals exclusively with secrets from behind the Iron Curtain. Since the Soviets forged that curtain for the particular purpose of hiding their slave world from Western eyes, and since their secrets are part and parcel of their plan to conquer the free world, it was imperative for Western self-defense to get hold of these secrets.

Gehlen's organization is different from the almost 100 others that operate in the shadow of the Iron Curtain and offer Soviet secrets to the West. Most of these outfits hang out their shingle in Berlin, that half-Soviet, half-free city. Some are set up by the Soviets themselves to mislead the West. Others are run by adventurers who dreamed up their information at the very coffee-house tables from which they sell it.

## A Really "Reliable Source"

When American officials explain, however, that a certain fact or figure came from Gehlen, it is accepted. The Gehlen label makes it a sure thing.

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
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What is more, Gehlen's Soviet secrets are never "on the market." They are available only to the authorized hush-hush agencies of the United States and the West German governments. Partners in the cold war, both desperately need precise knowledge of the facts of Communist political, economic and military life. America — a newcomer in the field of international intelligence — receives the most benefits from having at its command a foreign source of information on which it can rely.

Gehlen is camera-shy and hates publicity. When his picture was published for the first time in Germany, although it was only cut from a 10-year-old group snapshot, every copy of the newspaper carrying it was sold within a few hours. In his personal appearance nothing seems to fit the popular idea of the master spy he is. His neighbors in the Upper Bavarian village of Starnberg, where he lives in an unpretentious lake-front house, saw no reason to doubt him when he introduced himself as a businessman. When he drives every morning to his city office and spends his evenings quietly with his family or working in his garden, he looks more like a fairly successful industrialist than a leader in the cloak-and-dagger industry.

## His First Big Spy Network

Gehlen joined the German army at 18 and served for 23 years on routine jobs before he made his first contact with the undercover world. That was in 1943 when the Russians began to roll back Hitler's armies. The German High Command was ignorant of Soviet troop movements since its intelligence machinery had broken down in the internecine struggle between anti-Nazi army officers and power-drunk Nazi S.S. leaders. The General Staff instructed Gehlen to dig up information on the Eastern Front about the enemy armies. Opposed by the Nazis, whom he hated ever since, he calmly, dutifully and efficiently set up a new spy network in the East.

So well did he do this job that it almost ruined him. When he was ordered to report on the situation to Hitler in person, he predicted that the Germans would soon be defeated by Russia. The Fuehrer flew into a rage and demanded that Gehlen be committed to an insane asylum. He was saved only by his commanding general and soon thereafter by the fact that his forecast came true.

After the defeat Gehlen surrendered to the American Army. His American questioners laughed when he told them he was an intelligence expert on Soviet affairs and eager to hand over his collected reports. He described the Soviet's bellicose preparations against their American allies, and revealed his network of informants, his storehouse of information, his methods of finding facts in the Kremlin-ruled countries — but to no avail.

Only after several months in a prisoner-of-war camp was Gehlen discovered by an intelligence officer on General George S. Patton's staff who had him flown to Washington. In an interview which lasted for weeks, Gehlen impressed his captors with his memory, recalling tens of thousands of names, figures and incidents. They proved to be correct as well as most valuable to the American cause.

## A Duel Between Experts

He was returned to Germany with permission to set up a new intelligence network restricted in its operations to the Communist sphere, strictly supervised by Americans. There was one condition — his own. He was never to work against the interests of a free, democratic Germany.

In the 10 years since, Gehlen has fought an almost daily battle of wits with his opposite number in East Germany, Ernst Wollweber. A heavy-set, tough professional Communist, four years older than Gehlen, Wollweber's adult life for 30 years was devoted to espionage, smuggling and sabotage on the world's water fronts for the Communist movement. After the war he became East Germany's Minister of Transportation, then its State Security Minister in charge of secret police and foreign intelligence.

maritime expert turned Communist and in charge of Wollweber's Division of Fleets and Ports was Walter Gramsch. He did such meritorious work that the Communist government  
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## The Hunting Grounds

awarded him the Certificate of Superior Service in 1953 and promoted him. Several weeks later he fled with his family to West Berlin.

The reason was that on his new, higher job he would have been of little use to Gehlen whom — under the cover name of "Brutus" — he had served all these years. While pretending to be a Communist he kept Gehlen posted on the plans and moves of his enemy.

To all outward appearances Gehlen's network consists of a number of various business firms. Without arousing anyone's suspicions cars can be registered, office space rented, trips undertaken. When legitimate customers try to deal with these companies, they find nothing unusual in their operation.

### College Campus? No, Espionage Factory

Only the "director-general," Gehlen himself, knows all the companies that form his wide-flung undercover business empire. From the directors of these concerns down to the branch managers, none is aware of more names than those of the five men working under him. These men in turn have learned only the address and name of their direct boss.

Although surrounded by all the secrecy of a major atomic plant, Gehlen's headquarters at Pullach, a charming residential suburb of the Bavarian city of Munich and far away from the Iron Curtain, seems — once you have passed its heavily guarded entrance which is closed to most everyone — to resemble a quiet college campus. Many of the 400 people working in the compound of 24 former villas are indeed scholars in many scientific fields, from geography to nuclear physics. While they direct and evaluate the findings of the men in the field, they themselves — though in less glamorous, less dangerous ways — are on the hunt for Soviet secrets.

Their hunting grounds are Communist newspapers, statistics, other "open material." When the last East German election results showed the votes cast at "special polling places," their number served to confirm the East German army's present strength as Gehlen's agents had reported it. The "special polling places" were set up in the barracks of that new army, and by an oversight their election figures had been published in the routine breakdown of the vote. Happily, such oversights occur often.

### They're Doing It for Freedom

The combination of cloak-and-dagger methods with systematic research in a streamlined business organization is one of the reasons why Gehlen's reports are so accurate. Intelligent newspaper reading and statistical analysis count at least as much in his work as beautiful ladies in slick evening gowns and men hiding behind many disguises.

Also in contrast to old-fashioned espionage where traitors were bought for a price, most men working for Gehlen are sincere patriots — often from Soviet Russia and her satellites — who wish only to help the West in ridding their countries of Communism.

To win victory over a powerful enemy we must know his strength and weakness more thoroughly than he himself does. Gehlen may well be worth as much as an infantry division ready to defend freedom. — The End



RARE PHOTO shows Gehlen in days when he ran a spy outfit in competition with Nazi SS

Wide World